

May 10, 2003

Kenneth Payne, Chief
Marketing Programs Branch
AMS Livestock and Seed Program
USDA STOP 0251
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-0251

Comments on: LS-02-15

Dear Sir,

I am providing these comments as a county Fair Swine Youth Show Superintendent for the Tama County Fair which is located in Gladbrook Iowa.

Just like all pork producers the youth participating in swine projects, such as 4-H and FFA swine exhibitors, have checkoff responsibilities. However as a result of the preference of many pork packers in the industry to issue one check for all of the pigs represented in a single county fair show only one checkoff record will show up for the entire county. In Tama county as an example typically 30 to 40 youth exhibitors show and sell 180-200 head of hogs which all are processed at a single packing facility. One check is then issued to the Tama County Fair, with the checkoff deducted, and it is our responsibility to identify the amount to be distributed to each of the exhibitors.

Please consider this situation as you are determining the number of participants in the referendum survey.

Sincerely,
Jim Beenken, Swine Show Superintendent
Tama County Iowa